

PURPOSE
STATEMENT

*"We are disciples of
Jesus Christ
committed to making a
difference in the
community and in the
world through service
and invitational
outreach."*

Inside this Issue Page

Worship Services update 2

*"Seeing, and Seeing
Again"* by Melissa
Tidwell

Serving in the Military

"Cold Weather" by 3
Suzanna Nickerson

Letter from Lower Cape
Outreach Council

Stewardship Pledge
Cards Deadline

Congregants'
Birthdays and
Anniversaries

Staff Contacts

Office Phone: 508-945-0474

Email:

office@chathammethodist.org

Pastor Thom

(Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Gallen)

Cell: 508.209.4551

tjgjt@hotmail.com

**All church activities are
currently suspended.**

Virtual services are on

www.Facebook.com/

FUMC Chatham or

www.chathammethodist.org

The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Chatham

From the Pastor

*Chatham Brothers and Sisters -
Greetings!*

Joy to the World!

One of my favorite songs in and around the Christmas season is "Good King Wenceslas." He is both a historical and legendary character. The original Wenceslas was, of course, never actually a king. He was of lesser nobility and given that title after his death in the 900s AD.

One of my favorite places during my (limited) travel history is Wenceslas Square in the heart of the Czech Republic city of Prague. As I recall, it is about a block wide and seven or eight blocks long, leading uphill to a majestic museum at the highest point.

Those of us who are old enough recall Russian tanks moving through this square to take possession of Czechoslovakia in 1968. This more or less peaceful small country was absorbed by the Russians while the world watched and did little. Today, there is little left to remind us of these quiet streets of shops, restaurants, and hotels.

But the song commemorating the original Wenceslas is a call to peace, gentleness, and care for those around us who have little and live in poverty. In the song, Wenceslas calls to his page (servant) to find out who the beggar is that he sees before him. He finds that the scrounging character lives in a hillside cave

December 2020 Volume 24, Issue 12

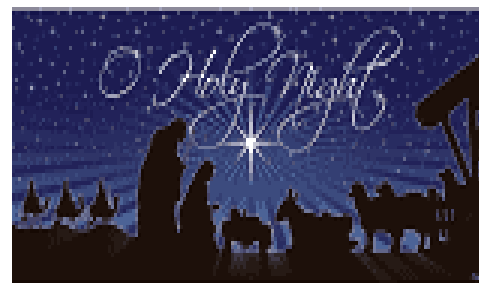
(presumably) and is just searching for a little food. "Bring me flesh and bring me wine!" the King calls as they set out to feed the poor man. And, through sleet, snow, and bitter cold, they set out to do just that.

This Christmas season let all of us remember that, even with all our fears, loneliness, and illnesses, we are among the blessed! We have family, friends, and God's love to sustain us through the long, dark winter months. And we have the child Jesus to bring us hope for a more abundant life.

Our world is not free from challenges for world peace, hunger, and ecological justice. There is much work yet to do! But this Christmas, my prayer for all of us is to remember that we are not alone. God is with us, and our brothers and sisters in faith are beside us as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

Merry Christmas to one and all!

Thom



INSIDE WORSHIP SERVICES ARE ONCE AGAIN SUSPENDED

There are no services in the Sanctuary for the time being. Please join us for virtual Sunday worship services, which are available on <https://umcom.zoom.us/j/38442955463> (the numbers are our I.D.) You may also call the church office for details—508.945.0474.

WE SEND OUR CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS YOUR WAY



Seeing, and Seeing Again

At *The Upper Room* museum in Nashville, TN, there is an annual display of nativity scenes. The collection numbers in the hundreds, many of them gifts from the international publishing partners of *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide.

Each one speaks to a context, a place and people, in the choice of materials and how the Holy Family is depicted. There are scenes made from whalebone, cornhusks, clay, and metal. Some are fabulously intricate, and some are a little crude, made with more love than skill. I especially love the various animals added to these scenes—like meerkats and penguins and giraffes—that speak to the origins of their making.

At first, I was a little put off by some of the most traditional and most elegant examples. They seemed to make Jesus into a Renaissance European and did not represent his birth in a stable realistically. But I realized that these artists had taken the idea of the Christ coming into the world and extended that vision to their world. And we are then invited to exercise the same vision. Imagine Christ coming into our world, wearing the clothes we wear, born to a teenage girl down the street. What if the Holy Family is one of the desperate families fleeing Syria, huddled in a refugee camp? What if instead of a donkey, this Christmas it is a leaky inflatable boat that carries Mary and Joseph away from the violence toward the place where they hope their child might be safe? What if the family shows up at the clothes closet at our church, needing a decent pair of shoes or a coat to make it through the winter? Isn't that, in fact, what Jesus tells us will happen in Matthew 25, when he suggests that those who lack the moral imagination to grasp the situation will have to ask, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked...?' (Matthew 25:44)

When we give ourselves the task of seeing Jesus in our world, we will find that spiritual imagination helps us much more than our supposed modern objectivity. As I came back over and over to see the display... and maybe as I matured a bit spiritually, I began to see that making an image of Jesus who looks like us is a worthy undertaking... signifying deep intuition that the incarnation not only reveals who Jesus was—fully human and fully divine—but also reveals who we are: a mixture of the holy and the ordinary. Jesus was one of us, mortal, embodied, destined to die. And on some level we are like him—bearing the image of God, and destined for resurrection.

...one of the deepest longings of the spiritual life, the desire to see, to know God, a longing expressed in the Bible as a desire to see the face of God. In Psalm 27, the psalmist pleads, 'Do not hide your face from me', and in I Corinthians 13, Paul declares with conviction that while we see only dimly now, in the fullness of God's time, we will see face to face... seeing recognition... like recognizing something we already knew, that flash of delight when you hear the first few chords of a favorite piece of music.

by Melissa Tidwell, in *Weavings*, Nov/Dec/Jan 2016-17

ON HOLY GROUND: Holy ground is the stable place of clarity and confidence in a turbulent human landscape of shifting values, crumbling hopes, frayed trusts, uncertain commitments. Holy ground is the place of life-giving rootedness in something larger than our own lives, something deep enough and enduring enough to keep us anchored and oriented in the storm. Holy ground is the place at once attractive and fearsome, where God speaks and we listen, the place of empowerment, transformation, and sending forth to live victoriously in a world too often disfigured by the defeat of justice, peace, and human dignity, the place where the gracious rule of God is known and the new creation becomes visible, the place where faith can move mountains (Matthew 17:20).

- Editor's Introduction, *Weavings*, September/October 1992

Serving In The Military

Please keep in your prayers all those serving in the military, especially the following members associated with our church:

- Lt. Forrest A. Bogue, U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA, grandson of Olive Bogue.
- Petty Officer 3rd Class, USN, Noah Firmin, who will be stationed in Yokosuka, Japan.
- Pvt. Jacob Stewart, grandson of Elaine & Roger Trexler, is at Ft. Myer, Virginia.

COLD WEATHER!

Cold weather is certainly upon us and, personally, I am finding it difficult to bundle up and wear those extra layers to keep me warm in our windy, wild Cape Cod weather. My sister and mom started using hot water bottles to hug under the covers on cold winter nights and passed the habit along to me. Hot water bottles take a bit more time and thought than pushing the heat up a few degrees, but can save money and precious electricity or gas.

Here's the recipe. If you don't have a hot water bottle, you can find one at your local drugstore. Read the directions. Fill with hot tap water or you may want to heat the water on the stove, but beware that this may melt the plastic pieces of the water bottle, so not too hot. I like to heat my water on the stove or in a coffee maker, minus the coffee of course! Some companies offer water bottle covers in flannel or fuzzy synthetic, but I like to wrap mine in a flannel pillowcase. Before using the pillowcase, I also use a Ziploc bag in case of a leak. This unfortunate experience can happen if the screw top is not on securely or if there is contraction when the water cools. Both are very unusual but can happen. One Ziplock bag can be used throughout the cold season, and then perhaps it could be used for another purpose.

I usually prepare my hot water bottle about a half-hour or more before sleep. This way if my feet get cold, my sheets and blankets are already warm when I hop into bed. If I have to get up in the night and my feet get cold again, my hot water bottle is there waiting to warm them.

I have been known to go to bed with two hot water bottles, one to hug and one for my feet. Wearing a nice warm pair of socks and a hat can also be useful on these cold nights. It is also good to have handy these things in case we have a day or two with no electricity.

Stay warm!
Suzanna Nickerson—774.563.0775

Reminder: the Chatham Food Pantry is only accepting financial contributions. Checks should be made out to the Chatham Food Pantry and sent to 625 Main Street, Chatham, MA 02633.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
12-02 Dona Connor
12-18 Dick Woolbert
12-25 Miles Farber

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
12-01 Kim & Peter Farber
12-11 Soo Kim & Hank Heo



By now, church members and friends should have received their Stewardship letter. We are asking that pledge cards be mailed to or dropped off at the church office by December 10 so the Finance Committee may complete its budget for 2021.

Lower Cape OUTREACH COUNCIL

Real People Real Problems Real Solutions

November 11, 2020

First United Methodist Church of Chatham
16 Cross Street
Chatham MA 02633-2245

Dear First United Methodist Church of Chatham:

In these days, in this moment in time, when the Lower Cape Outreach Council is stretching to help our neighbors in need and with our neighbors' circumstances exacerbated by the COVID-19 crises, your generosity and kindness give us hope. Thank you!

Approximately 86 percent of your donation will go immediately into services and support to help folks in need here on the lower and outer Cape. Because you donated, we will respond to families and individuals of all ages. They turn to us humbly, many for the first time in their lives, because they are out of options.

This year we anticipate providing over \$1,000,000.00 in assistance to our neighbors living here on the lower and outer Cape—neighbors who have been laid off or furloughed; neighbors who are retired and living on fixed incomes; young families with children who surely deserve life's basics.

We are grateful for your tax-deductible contribution of \$2,500.00 on 10/20/20.

You are our champion!
With gratitude,

John J. Roman, Board President
Lower Cape Outreach Council

Lower Cape Outreach Council certified that the gift specified has been received from the donor and that this organization/program is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that the donor will not derive any personal material benefit from this gift or match. Tax ID #04-2864255.

STAFF CONTACTS

Thom Gallen, Pastor

Cell: 508.209.4551

E-mail: pastor@chathammethodist.org or
tjgjt@hotmail.com

Office hours: Wednesday mornings, 10 - 12

Joyce Miriam Lance, Administrative Assistant

Address: 569 Main Street, Chatham, MA 02633

Mail address: 16 Cross Street, Chatham, MA 02633

Office hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 - 12:30

Telephone: 508-945-0474

Email: office@chathammethodist.org

Jeanne Kuzirian, Music Director

jkuzirian@comcast.net

Drs. Wm C. Coleman & Roz Coleman,

Pastoral Counselors

Telephone: 508-945-1985

Email: RozColeman@comcast.net

First United Methodist Church
16 Cross Street
Chatham, MA 02633